



Aviation Management Council

Attn: Pat Moore, Executive Secretary
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705



Interagency Aviation Management Council Meeting Minutes - June 4, 2001

Present: Mike Martin (Chair), Ed Stone, Rich Denker, Barb Mahaffey, Lynn Findley, Bob Galloway, Tony Kern, Mick McCurry, Asher Williams, and Pat Moore (Secretary). Thad Reddick, a cadet from the Air Force Academy who is on a detail with the Forest Service, was a guest.

The minutes from the April 27 meeting were approved with one correction. They will be finalized and put on the Web site (<http://www.oas.gov/hq/director/amc/amc.htm>) and an electronic copy sent to all AMC members.

AMC meetings will normally include only Operations and Business Management Oversight Team members. If presentations need to be made by any committee, they should be coordinated through the appropriate oversight team. **Pat Moore** will electronically send the existing organization chart to all AMC members for updates to teams/committees/working groups. Changes should be sent back to her before the next meeting.

1. Operations Oversight Team:

- Emergency Operations Group for Aviation: Added recommended changes made by MAC group to document on Emergency Operations Group for Aviation (a centralized aviation office which will be activated at PL4 and other emergency operations). The MAC group concurred; an Operations Plan will be drafted before the next AMC meeting.
- Interagency Aircraft Commander Evaluation Board: Asking for approval from the AMC. The purpose of the board is to approve agency pilots for upgrade to aircraft commander in airplanes with a gross takeoff weight in excess of 12,500 pounds or that require a type rating. The intention is to base the upgrade to large aircraft commander on performance and experience rather than "minimum flight hour criteria." This will be a policy change for Interior; so a draft OPM needs to be done for DOI Aviation Management Board of Directors approval. **Mick McCurry** will draft the OPM. The FS has already coordinated and approved.
- IHOPS charter: Has been staffed; presented to AMC for signature (signed after the meeting.)
- ILOG changes: The ILOG Steering Committee proposes changes to the ILOG. They are necessary to comply with the new FSH 5709-16 and to institute refinements and improvements in the Leadplane Program. The changes are not to policy so they can easily be incorporated into the Guide. Need AMC concurrence. ILOG will make the changes and have the guide reprinted.

➤ National Guard standards: Chapter 70 of the *Military Operations Guide* deals with military operations; guidance does not include the National Guard. **Mick McCurry** will draft guidance; **Lynn Findley** will get wording from the MAC group to incorporate. The guidance will be run through the normal draft policy coordination process for FS and DOI.

➤ Pilot Review Board: Discussed what a review board does. **Tony Kern** will check further into this subject.

➤ IHOPS Meeting: A letter will be written to IHOPS asking them to make sure they follow the proper format when inviting civilian operators to their meeting. Time should be set aside for IHOPS members only to discuss issues which may be sensitive to civilian operators.

2. Business Management Oversight:

➤ Heavy helicopters: The only bid received for heavy helicopters was from Heavy Lift. The SBA will not issue a Certificate of Competency to them; decision will be whether or not to terminate the contracts with them. This will leave only one heavy out of the four needed. FS and DOI contracting will be proactive in helping fire deal with this problem. This issue will be discussed again at the next meeting by **Rich Denker and Sam Stivison**.

Ø Updates on CWN Type I & II helicopter specs: Contracting wants aviation input for any proposed changes to helicopter specifications. A forum is needed to do this. It was agreed that the AMC Operations Oversight Team would manage it. **Mick McCurry** will ask **Al Rice** and **J.P. Johnston** to get together and work this item.

➤ MOU with FS/OAS: This is a high priority item with **Sam Stivison**. He hopes it will be done in June.

➤ FS surcharge issue with OAS: **Barbara Mahaffey** has been working with **Tory Majors** and they can find no solution to the surcharge issue. It was agreed this item will be dropped from the agenda and from the Business Management Operations Plan.

3. Operations Plans for the year: Oversight Teams need to be looking at the operations plans for individual subcommittees to make sure the identified projects are being worked.

4. Results of MAC group/AMC meeting:

➤ Explained function of AMC as a coordinating group, not a decision making one. Their purpose is to take proposed policy and frame it so it can be accepted by all agencies. The AMC charter was distributed.

➤ Discussed the need to formalize a process to move things more quickly during emergency situations. It would be helpful for the AMC to understand the authority (charter and delegated authority) granted to the MAC group to change aviation policy. **Lynn Findley** will get a copy of the Delegation of Authority to the MAC group. The MAC is also reviewing the AMC charter. We will arrange a meeting to discuss future communication and cooperation.

- There is a need to deal with policy now so we won't have to deal with waivers during fire season.

5. IHOG:

- Changes have been made and approved; just have to be implemented. The three changes affect the minimum daily staffing requirements for fire helicopters; the authority for one qualified Helicopter Manager to manage up to two Type I or Type II helicopters that are designated for "limited use" or FAA Restricted Category helicopters when specific conditions are met; and the management of helicopter bucket payloads. The changes are attached to the draft OPM from OAS and the FS will send out identical information.

Ø Regarding buckets:

- 1) Helicopters should be furnished with the appropriate size bucket.
- 2) The bucket should be adjustable.
- 3) If a bucket is adjusted to reduce the load for the environmental conditions (DA), then it should fully dipped for the load – not partially dipped and "eyeball" estimated. This means no partial dips for performance planning purposes.

Mick McCurry had some dialog on additional buckets "not being a problem." **Rich Denker** commented on cost and timing of any contract amendment actions. (See item #2 above.) **Rich Denker** agreed that the FS would add the "no partial dips" restriction as an amendment to the CWN contracts for this season.

- Final review on the OAS draft OPM document should be made. Any comments should be sent to **Bob Galloway**.
- National Guard helicopters and arduous duty for helicopter personnel need to be added as changes 4 and 5. (Approval should be obtained from the military before changing anything dealing with their operations.) Language will be written and coordinated through the Operations Oversight Team. Then normal agency draft policy coordination protocol will be followed.
- Of the five changes proposed, three are done. The other two are to be completed in the next two weeks for distribution to the field.

6. Aviation training: The AMC signed two letters dealing with training.

7. Suggestion from last meeting that the SLAM chair and the IATQWT chair get together. **Ed Stone** will see that happens.

8. Still short IRM member from FS on IRM committee. **Ed Stone** will obtain a name.

9. **Bill Baden**, NASF member, reported he heard funding was secured for the CL-415 for the National Guard to become involved in firefighting. Details will follow.

10. 760 channel radio (last meeting): Discussion on number of aircraft equipped with 760, adding language to the contracts concerning the need for 760, etc. **Mick McCurry** will take the lead in determining how the four DOI bureaus and the FS will deal with this item.

11. Minutes from AMC meetings: After the draft of the minutes is completed, it will be sent to everyone for comment. Corrections/additions will be returned to **Pat Moore** and she will incorporate the corrections into the draft; the draft will be sent to **Louise Bruck** to put on the Web site. After approval at the next meeting, the minutes will be finalized, added to the Web site, and the draft removed.

12. Next meeting: July 10 (Tuesday). **Mike Martin** will coordinate with the MAC group on a time when they can meet with AMC. He will attempt to set up the AMC meeting for the same day. Information will be forthcoming. Agenda items for next meeting: Issues with Bell 214, Heavy Helicopter Contracting, and AMC/MAC Meeting.